

A

RELATION

Of the TAKING of

PREVEZA

By the ARMY of the

Republique of Venice.

Seigneur Morosini General of the *Venetian* Army, after having taken *St. Maurice* with the Auxiliary Troops of the *Pope*: The Great Duke of *Tuscany* and those of *Malta*, was oblig'd to rest his Soldiers some dayes; In the mean time he gave necessary Orders for the Reparation of the Fortifications of the Place, but 'twas so much Damnis'd by the Cannon and the Bombs, which had ruin'd the greatest part of the Houses, that 'twas impossible to advance the Work in so little time as 'twas hoped for. He was therefore forc'd to part the Work between the Soldiers and the Galley-slaves, that it might be the sooner finish'd, having a resolution not to end the Campaign without some considerable Action; and that it much concern'd him not to part from *St. Maurice*, till it was in a good condition, in case the *Turks* should have any design to Attaque it, as they had given out. He likewise commanded they should carry in several Mortar-pieces, together with a great quantity of Bombs, and all sorts of Provisions, as well of War as others, if the place might have occasion, to make a Vigorous Defence.

The 22 of *August* Seigneur *Giosafato Cornaro* Provitor General of the Sea arrived at *St. Maurice*, and Seigneur *Morosini* having let him see the necessity of finishing those Works he had already begun, prepared for his departure upon a new Expedition he had but newly resolv'd upon. But after having made a general re-view of his Troops, and chose out those that should enter into the Garrison of *St. Maurice*, there remain'd but two thousand *Venetian* Troops that were fit to March, by reason of the Sickness and Fatigues which had killed abundance of his men. He therefore sent the Collonel *Angelo* of *Desimo* into the Neighbourhood to Assemble as many *Greeks* together as possible, the better to Fortifie his Army, and to put him in a condition to Attaque *Preveza*, following the Resolution he had taken, and which he had not till then declared. He learn'd almost at the same time that the *Turks* had caus'd five hundred men to enter into the place, and that they had got together a number of Troops to form a Body, which was encamped under the Cannon of the Town, and was well Entrenched. This advice did not at all hinder the General *Morosini* to think of means for the execution of his Designs, how difficult soever the Enterprize seem'd, with that small number of Troops he had Ship'd off.

He set sail with a part of his Army, and Anchored in the Port of *Pitala*, there to hear news of Collonel *Angelo*, who was already advanced within 26 Miles of *St.*

Maure; and upon the advice he received, he drew towards the Port of *Dragamette*, where a landing might be made without any difficulty.

The 10th. of September he Embarked his Troops, the Army consisting of 2000 *Venetians*, about 1000 Auxiliaries of the *Pope*, the Duke of *Tuscany*, and those of *Malta*, and 15 or 1600 *Greeks*.

These Troops being advanced in the plain Country, instantly charged some *Turkish* Squadrons which were posted in different places for the Guard of the passages, who immediately retir'd upon the approach of the *Christians*. One Party of these Squadrons consisted of the Troops which the *Infidels* had Assembled after the taking of *St. Maure*, and who had Encamped about *Prevesa*; *Saban Bassa* Governour of the place had sent them to observe the motions of the *Christian* Army. Being made believe after that Action which they came from doing, they could have no design on *Prevesa*, he was therefore gone out, and put himself at the head of his Troops to harass and surprise it.

The *Christians* entred into four or five Villages of the *Turks*, which they burnt, after having made several Slaves, and ravaged the Countrey for 4 or 5 days space, they then re-embarked at the Port of *Patalla*; the General in the mean time, was with his Gallies within sight of *Patras*, and *Lepanto*, to amuse the *Turks*, and to draw them to that side, upon the hopes that they might more easily Charge the *Venetian* Troops, while they were dispersed in the Plain Country.

The 15th. they came to the part of *Demata*. The 17th. they called a Council, where 'twas resolv'd to Attaque *Prevesa*, because without the Conquest of that Place, *St. Maure* being but newly reduced to the obedience of the *Republique*, might be readily Besieged by the *Infidels*.

The Fortrefs of *St. Maure* is within twelve Leagues of the entrance of the *Gulph* of *Arta*, by the Ancients called the *Gulph* of *Ambracia*: The City of *Arta* is Scituate on the extremity of this *Gulph*, which is about 15 Miles in compass, being able to contain a great number of Ships; at the entrance of the *Gulph*, on the West side, stands the Fortrefs of *Prevesa*, upon the ruines of the Ancient *Nicopolis*, built by *Augustus* in memory of a Victory he gain'd against *Mark Antony*; the place is less than *St. Maure*, but the Scituation is more advantageous, commanding the entrance of the *Gulph*, and those that are Masters of it are also of a considerable Trade which is at *Arta*.

Seigneur *Moresini* taking the Resolutions of the Council of War, caused five Gallies and six Gallyasses with Order to approach near the Castles to a place called *Gomenizza*, which are almost within sight of *Prevesa* if possible, to oblige the *Turks* to separate their Forces, and to force back those Troops which they had drawn together to Fortifie the Body which lay Encamped under the favour of the Cannon of the Town.

These stratagems had all the success the General proposed; *Saban Bassa* believing the *Venetians* durst not hazard the Siege of *Prevesa*, Attaqued the Castles, and sent back thither all the Troops he had already drawn, and the greatest part of those that lay round *Prevesa*, thus perswading himself he should ruine the Designs of the Generals: The *Turks* the more to insult over the *Christians*, and to let them know they were sensible of their Designs, caused a general Salute of all their Cannon, with other demonstrations of joy, when they were received into the Castles.

The 20th. the Army parted from *Demata*, and arrived about nine in the Evening at the entrance of the *Gulph* of *Arta*, where they Anchor'd. The 21st. the Captain *Manetta* with 14 Barks and some Brigandines Armed, entred in the *Gulph* of *Prevesa*, and there landed with part of the Troops; in the mean time the *Turks* discharged eight pieces of Cannon and about 200 Musquets, though not a man was wounded: The Gallies that were Anchor'd over against an Eminence called the Hill of *Mahomed Effendi*, advanced about the dawning of the day within Musquet shot of the place, to make a Diversion, and to facilitate the Landing of those part of the Troops that were already by means of Gallies past an Arm of the Sea about a Mile and half over: In meanwhile the Gallies made a continual Firing in their turns, which hindred the *Turks* from coming near the Shoar.

Ineffect the *Infidels* believing the *Christians* would put their Troops ashoar on this place, Fired their whole Cannon and Musquets with much Confusion, and little Damage

mage to the *Christians*. The Troops being thus landed without any Loss began to advance nigh the place under the Command of General *Strafolde*.

The *Turks* that were commanded to hinder their Landing, having perceived the Fault they had committed, detached 500. *Spahies*, who came full speed to Charge the *Christians* before they had finished their Landing, but being already in Order of Battel, and vigorously Firing upon the *Turks*, they killed and wounded a considerable number, the others, without any further Dispute, betook themselves to Flight, and retir'd in so great Disorder, that the most part of them could not enter the Town, the *Christians* immediately advanced without any further hindrance, seized upon the Town, and posted themselves upon the Hill of *Mahomet Effendi*, which commanded the City within Musquet shot.

The 21. the *Generalissimo* having made the Gallies and Galliot's approach near *Pravsa*, sent to summon the *Turks* to deliver up the Place, threatening them to give no Quarter if they attended the last extremity. *Saba Rassa* Governour, that was parted to put himself at the head of 4000. Men, to observe the motions of the *Christians*, was not yet got in; but the besieged hoped his Return in three or four days, and that he would bring Troops enough to raise the Siege: So the Officer that commanded in his absence would not receive the *General's* Letter, and order'd to shoot him that brought it; mean time Signiour *Morofini* caused two Cannons, and two Mortar pieces to be landed.

The 22. he landed as many more Cannon and Mortar pieces, and accompanied with the Nobles of his Galley, visited the Posts, order'd the Attacques, and plac'd the Cannons, and the Mortars upon the Batteries.

The 23. was more than 300. Bombs thrown, which beat down many Houses, and set fire to several Quarters, and dismounted several Pieces of the Enemies Cannon, the Artillery of the place was in a very ill condition, and did no effect, the Besiegers fired with so much success against their Batteries, that there was left but one piece of Cannon that was in a condition to serve them. That day there was but one Souldier kill'd, and five wounded.

The 24. Seignior *Morofini* visited the Works, and the Batteries, and gave order for the making a Descent into the Ditch, where he immediately made a Lodgment.

The 24. Twenty *Turks* that night got out of the Town, by several *Florentines* which they found asleep, they killed one, took another Prisoner, and wounded a third.

The 26. the Breach was considerable, and the Enemies made very little fire with their Musquets.

The 27. the Works advanced with so much Success, that on the morrow the 28. they made a Lodgment in the Ditch. The *Sieur Bachili*, who commanded a Party of the Troops of *Atala*, was killed with a Musquet Shot, the same day the Mine was thought fit to be ready to play, and Orders were given to go to the Assault, in case the *Turks* should obstinately endeavour the Defence of the Place.

The 29. the Feast of *St. Michael*, they put out the White Flag, and demanded to capitulate, sending six of theirs to propose Articles, and the Governour sent Hostages five Gentlemen.

The *Turks* demanded that He would agree with them, on the same Capitulations as he had done with those of *St. Maurice*; but he declared he would make no Conditions with them, otherwise than that Thirty of the most considerable of them, should go out of the Town with Arms, and Baggage, and the rest should go without Arms, and that they should carry nothing but what they ought, and that all the *Christians* Slaves should be set at Liberty. The *Turks* were obliged to submit to these Conditions.

The 30. they departed out to the number of 200. Men by the Sea-Gate, and were thence conveyed by certain *Greek* Barks within four Miles of *Arta*.

The *Generalissimo* *Morofini* caused 20. *Maleses*, 30. *Venetians*, 6. Souldiers of the Troops of the *Pope*, and 10. of the *Florentines*, to enter the Town, who had order put guards to the two Ports, and the several Avenues, to hinder the Pillage, and for the Conservation of the Magazin. He ordered also at the same time the Standard

of St. Mark to be put up, and those of the *Turk* to be taken down, which were carried to the General's Galley.

There was found more than 46 Pieces of Cannon in the place, eighteen of which were Brasses, and at 50. pound Ball, a quantity of Musquets, 500. Quintals of Powder, Bullets, and all sort of Provision in abundance, and about 1200. Inhabitants in the Place.

The Republick, by this Conquest, remains in Possession of the Golph, and all the Places on that Coast: And the *Turks* in loosing that Fortress, have lost one 100000. Crowns a year, which they drew from the Fishing on the Coast. The *Sieur Grimani* Patriarch of Aquile, and hertofore General of the *Pope's* Gallies, having some time since in vain attacqued it without any Success:

During this Progress of the *Venetian* Army, under the Conduct of the General the *Sieur Alessandro Molino* Captain extraordinary of the Ships, hearing that the Captain *Bassa*, after having several times avoided the Rencontre of the *Venetian* Army, was retired in the Port of *Chio*, resolved to go there to fight him.

He sailed that way with six Ships, and was no sooner in the mouth of the Chanel, but he discovered a Galley, which the *Turks* had left to observe the Motion of the *Venetians*. This Galley, after having given several Shot, which served as a Sign to the *Bassa*, retired with all possible speed, and at the same time, the other Gallies that were at the mouth of the Chanal, entred in the Port of *Chio*, the *Venetians* following them, and the 20. they anchor'd at the Mouth of the Port: Having in the sight of the Enemies Army, taken a Saick loaded with Wood from *Constantinople*, the Wind proving contrary that day, hindred the Ships from coming nearer the Land.

The 21. the *Sieur Molino*, having put his Ships in form of a Half Moon, and posting himself in the Head of them, advanced under the Cannon of the Castle, from whence they fired several upon him; but that did not hinder him at all from giving a whole Broad-side upon the Castle, and the other Vessels doing the like: The *Turks* answered with the Cannon from the Castle, and likewise from a little Fort newly built by the Sea side, since the Damage received from the *French* Squadron, under the Command of *Adonleur du Rousne*.

The *Turkish* Gallies, to the number of 16. together with three Ships, stirred not in the Action, waiting only a fair opportunity of Retiring without Fighting. The *Venetian* Ships remained at the Entry of the Port, in the same Posts they had taken, and to shut up the Passage.

The 21. and 22. at night, the *Sieur Molino* detached the Captain *Bassagnani*, with a Ship to recover the Port, which he found would be very difficult to assault, because of the new Fortifications the *Turks* had made. He was therefore resolved to cast up several Batteries of Bombs ashore, to incommode the Enemies, and to oblige them to abandon the Port. The *Sieur Delkine* Captain Ordinary, advanced with the *Superb* thundring, with two other Ships, firing his Cannon upon the new Fort the whole day, but without doing much Damage; 'twas found impossible to land the Cannon, and therefore contented themselves to advance four great Barks with Mortars, to throw the Bombs against the Gallies.

In the mean time, the *Sieur Molino* giving Orders to make ready the Batteries, perceived towards the beginning of the Night, eight Gallies drawing out of the Port, and with all speed making towards the Coast of *Rhodes*, the *Venetians* immediately weighed Anchor to follow them, vigorously firing upon them, but the Wind falling, they could not follow them further; mean while the other Gallies got out of the Port, making a favourable use of the calm, to follow the others. 'Tis reported that afterwards that 3. of those Gallies were sunk by the Shot they had received, that the others were in a very ill condition, and that the Town and Castle of *Chio*, were very considerably damaged.